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PAGE 01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 09 KARUL 02348

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAR, MR. BRUNO; THE HAGUE
FOR A-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 14/DEC/93

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (DECEMBER 18-20
1987)

REF: KARUL 2301

1. FOR ISLAMABAD AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISX?TO DRAW
ON THE FOLLOWING IN BRIEFING PRESS.

2. (U) SUMMARY: SOVIET MEDIA, DECEMBER 19, ANNOUNCED
THE LAUNCHING OF A MAJOR REGIME OFFENSIVE AIMED AT
LIFTING THE MUJAHIDIN SIEGE AT KHOST. BY PORTRAYING THE
OFFENSIVE AS A REGIME UNDERTAKING, THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO
BE PUTTING THE RA MILITARY TO A PUBLIC TEST. IN
REALITY, SOVIET FORCES ARE AND HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN THE
BATTLE FOR KHOST FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. A KEY QUESTION IS
WHETHER MUJAHIDIN DEPLOYED IN THE AREA WILL MAINTAIN
THEIR SIEGE OR MELT AWAY IN THE FACE OF SUPERIOR SOVIET
AND REGIME FORCES. SHOULD A PROTRACTED STRUGGLE FOR
KHOST DEVELOP, ITS OUTCOME COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT
POLITICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY CONSEQUENCES. MEANWHILE,
MUJAHIDIN IN THE KABUL AREA INCREASED EFFORTS IN THE
CAPITAL WITH A HIGHLY DESTRUCTIVE ROCKET ATTACK ON THE
SOUTHEASTERN PART OF THE CITY AS WELL AS THROUGH
BOMBINGS. ALTHOUGH DECLARED A "PEACE ZONE" BY THE
REGIME, CHAHR ASIAR, 20 KMS SOUTH OF KABUL, WAS THE
SCENE OF INTENSE FIGHTING. MUJAHIDIN THERE HAVE BEEN
HARRASSING CONVOYS MOVING BETWEEN KABUL AND GARDEZ. IN
KANDAHAR PROVINCE, THE REGIME'S ALLIANCE WITH THE
MUJAHIDIN TURNCOAT ESMATULLAH MUSLIM APPEARS TO BE
UNRAVELLING. MUSLIM'S FORCES REPORTEDLY HAVE RETAINED
CONTROL OF THE IMPORTANT ROAD CONNECTING KANDAHAR CITY
WITH THE PAKISTAN BORDER. THEY HAVE KIDNAPPED REGIME
OFFICIALS AND NOT BLOCKED THE MUJAHIDIN'S ANNIHILATION OF
A REGIME DETACHMENT. REPORTS APPEAR TO CONFIRM A MAJOR
MUJAHIDIN VICTORY IN MAIHANA, PROVINCIAL CENTER IN
FARYAR. OTHER FIGHTING IS REPORTED IN PARWAN, GHAZNI
AND WARDAK. IN APPARENT REACTION TO INCREASING PRESSURE
ON ITS UNDERMANNED MILITARY, THE REGIME HAS RESORTED TO
MORE VIGOROUS PRESS GANG OPERATIONS. REGIME ACTIONS ARE
PROMPTING PROTEST. A HEALTH PROFESSIONAL ASSESSES THE
STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN AFGHANISTAN IS DETERIORATING.

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E.O. 12356: DECL: 14/DEC/93

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MOP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (DECEMBER 14-20)

ARMS FIRE WAS HEARD IN THE CITY FREQUENTLY DURING THE
WEEK. SOURCES ALSO REPORT ROCKETS IMPACTING IN THE CITY
ON FOUR OCCASIONS AND ONE CAR BOMB DETONATION. POWER
BLACKOUTS CONTINUED TO PLAGUE THE CITY WITH DAILY OUTAGES
LASTING SEVERAL HOURS AFFECTING VIRTUALLY ALL PARTS OF
THE CITY AT VARIOUS TIMES. THE ENTIRE CITY WAS BLACKED
OUT FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES, DECEMBER 17. (SEE
PARA 40 FOR REPORT OF MUJAHIDIN ATTACK ON ELECTRIC
FACILITIES EAST OF KARUL.) SOURCES REPORTED THE
FOLLOWING MAJOR INCIDENTS:

-- DECEMBER 20: SMALL ARMS FIRE FOLLOWED AN EXPLOSION IN
THE SHARE NAU AREA AT 0415. SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS AGAIN
HEARD IN THE SHERPUR AREA AT 0745. AT APPROXIMATELY
1500, A BOMB EXPLODED IN THE COMMERCIAL AREA NEAR BLUE
MOSQUE IN SHARE NAU. IT DESTROYED FOUR SMALL SHOPS AND
REPORTEDLY KILLED SIX. REGIME SECURITY FORCES FOUND AND
DEFUSED ANOTHER BOMB IN THE SAME AREA SEVERAL HOURS
EARLIER.

-- DECEMBER 19: DIPLOMATS REPORTED SIX TO EIGHT LARGE
EXPLOSIONS FROM SOUTHERN KARUL AROUND 1620, FOLLOWED BY
OUTGOING ARTILLERY. THE EXPLOSIONS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN
INCOMING ROCKETS.

-- DECEMBER 18: DURING THE EVENING, AN AFGHAN SOURCE
REPORTED PERIODIC SMALL ARMS FIRE BETWEEN THE KABUL
AIRPORT AND KHAIR KHANA. (SEE ABOVE FOR DESCRIPTION OF
ROCKET ATTACK ON SOUTHEAST KARUL.)

-- DECEMBER 17: TWO ROCKETS, LAUNCHED FROM PAGHMAN,
STRUCK SOUTH KARUL AT APPROXIMATELY 0600. DIPLOMATS
REPORTED SHOOTING NEAR THE AMANI HIGH SCHOOL, 500 METERS
FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY, IN THE EARLY MORNING.
SEARCHLIGHTS PLAYED ACROSS NORTHERN KABUL DURING AND
AFTER A TOTAL CITY BLACKOUT (2250-2305) REPORTED ABOVE.
A DIPLOMAT REPORTED 5-6 EXPLOSIONS, POSSIBLY INCOMING
ROCKETS, IN SOUTH KABUL BETWEEN 2220 AND 2240.

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-- DECEMBER 16: BURSTS OF SMALL ARMS FIRE WERE HEARD
NEAR THE AMANI HIGH SCHOOL AT 1830.

-- DECEMBER 15: A RELIABLE AFGHAN CLAIMS A CAR BOMB
DETONATED IN KARTE PARWAN BETWEEN 1400 AND 1500. A
DIPLOMAT HEARD THREE EXPLOSIONS, POSSIBLY CAUSED BY
IMPACTING ROCKETS, AT 1428. BURSTS OF SMALL ARMS FIRE
WERE HEARD NEAR THE AMANI HIGH SCHOOL AT 1930.

-- DECEMBER 14: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTED SMALL ARMS
FIRE INSIDE THE SOVIET MILITARY HOSPITAL COMPOUND AT 1910

4. (U) KABUL PROVINCE: MUJAHIDIN MAINTAINED PRESSURE
ON THE CAPITAL WHILE KABUL-BASED RA UNITS DEPLOYED SOUTH
IN AN ATTEMPT TO LIFT THE MUJAHIDIN SIEGE AT KHOST (SEE
PARA 5). THE DECEMBER 17 ROCKET ATTACK ON THE SOUTHERN
DISTRICTS OF THE CITY, AND FIGHTING SOUTH OF THE CITY,
INDICATED A GROWING MUJAHIDIN THREAT TO THE LOGAR ROAD.
THE ROUTE IS VITAL TO SOVIET/RA EFFORTS TO LIFT THE KHOST
SIEGE. DIPLOMATS REPORTED OUTGOING ARTILLERY FIRE AND
INTENSE SMALL ARMS FIRE DURING THE MORNING AND MID-DAY,
DECEMBER 18, AT KARGHA, WEST OF KABUL. TO THE NORTH,
INTENSE FIGHTING CONTINUES WITH REPORTS OF SOVIET/RA
DESTRUCTION OF CIVILIAN HOUSING IN VARIOUS SHOMALI
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E.O. 1235A: DECL: 14/DEC/93
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ASEC, UR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (DECEMBER 14-20

TOWNS. MUJAHIDIN ARE REPORTED TO HAVE INCREASED ATTACKS
ON POWER FACILITIES WHICH PROVIDE ELECTRICITY FOR KARUL.

A. KABUL - SOUTH: MUJAHIDIN ROCKET ATTACK ON THE
CAPITAL'S SOUTHERN DISTRICTS, DECEMBER 17 (SEE PARA 3)
CAME IN CONJUNCTION WITH ESCALATING FIGHTING IN THE CHAHR
ASIAB - RISHKHOR - KOH-I-SAFED AREA, APPROXIMATELY 12 KMS
SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL. (IRONICALLY, KABUL MEDIA ANNOUNCED
DECEMBER 18, THAT CHAHR ASIAB HAD BEEN DECLARED A "PEACE
ZONE".) AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES REPORTED HEAVY
FIGHTING SOUTH OF KABUL BETWEEN 1600 AND 1800, DECEMBER

19. A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE DESCRIBED THE COMBAT,
AUDIBLE IN KARUL, AS INCLUDING HEAVY ARTILLERY AND JET
STRIKES. DURING THE COMBAT, A SMALL OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT
CIRCLED HIGH OVERHEAD. (COMMENT: THE RESURGENCE OF
MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITY IN LOGAR AND SOUTHERN KARUL PROVINCE
FOLLOWS A MONTH-LONG SOVIET CAMPAIGN IN NOVEMBER TO ROOT
OUT THE MUJAHIDIN PRESENCE IN THE AREA. IN ADDITION TO
PUTTING DIRECT PRESSURE ON THE CAPITAL, THE MUJAHIDIN IN
THE CHAHR ASIAB - KOH-I-SAFED AREA, AS REPORTED
PREVIOUSLY, HAVE AMBUSHED SOVIET AND RA CONVOYS MOVING
BETWEEN KABUL AND THE KHOST-GARUEZ FIGHTING.)

B. KABUL - WEST: DIPLOMATS AT KARGHA LAKE ON DECEMBER
18 REPORTED INTERMITTENT PRE-DAWN SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM
VARIOUS POINTS WEST OF THE LAKE AND ARTILLERY FIRE TO THE
NORTH. DURING MID-MORNING, SOVIET GUN POSITIONS ON HILLS
ADJACENT TO THE LAKE FIRED GENERALLY TO THE WEST. AT
MID-DAY, SOME DIPLOMATS IN THE AREA RETURNED TO KARUL
AFTER INTENSE SMALL ARMS FIRE BROKE OUT AT VARIOUS POINTS
IN THE ROLLING PLAINS WEST OF THE LAKE. NEARER KARUL
CITY, AT QALA-I-SHODA, DECEMBER 15, AN AFGHAN REPORTED
THAT A MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY OFFICIAL (KHAD) WAS
ASSASSINATED.

C. KABUL - NORTH: RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT HEAVY
FIGHTING IN SHAKA DARA, QARABAGH AND GULDARA. IN THE
QARABAGH AREA, SOVIET TANKS REPORTEDLY FIRED AT HOUSES

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CAUSING MUCH DESTRUCTION AND REFUGEE FLIGHT. SOVIET AND RA FORCES ALSO EMPLOYED ARTILLERY BUT HAVE NOT BOMBARDED THE AREA FROM THE AIR. A SINGLE AFGHAN REPORTS CHRONIC LOW-INTENSITY FIGHTING BETWEEN THE KHAIR KHANA PASS (THE NORTHERN ENTRANCE TO KABUL) AND QAREZ-I-MIR, 12 KMS NORTH OF THE CITY. APPEARING TO CONFIRM THE INCREASED FIGHTING NORTH OF THE CITY, DIPLOMATS HAVE OBSERVED SOVIET MI-8'S AND MI-24'S DEPARTING DAILY IN EARLY MORNING TO THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTED THREE SOVIETS WERE KILLED IN THE SHAKA DARA AREA, DECEMBER 8. AN AFGHAN REPORTED THAT MUJAHIDIN IN THE FARZA AREA CONTINUE TO FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES AND THAT THE ROAD CONNECTING FARZA WITH THE SALANG HIGHWAY HAS BEEN CLOSED BY THE FIGHTING.

4. KABUL - EAST: A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMED THAT RECENT POWER OUTAGES IN KABUL ARE IN PART DUE TO MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS ON ELECTRIC PYLONS IN THE MAH-I-PAR AREA. ACCORDING TO THE AFGHAN, MUJAHIDIN IN THE AREA IN THE PAST, HAVE ACCEPTED MONEY FROM THE REGIME NOT TO ATTACK THE VULNERABLE PYLONS. MUJAHIDIN RECENTLY HAVE ENDED THIS PRACTICE, AND REPORTEDLY CONDUCTED OPERATIONS AGAINST PYLONS IN THE DECEMBER 15-17 PERIOD.

5. (U) PAKTIA: SOVIET MEDIA (BUT NOT RA MEDIA).

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SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (DECEMBER 14-20).

DECEMBER 19, ANNOUNCED THE LAUNCHING OF A MAJOR REGIME
 OFFENSIVE TO LIFT THE MUJAHIDIN SIEGE OF KHOST. AT THE
 RECENT LOYA JIRGA, NAJIRULLAH HAD GIVEN THE MUJAHIDIN
 UNTIL DECEMBER 19 TO LIFT THE SIEGE. SENIOR EAST BLOC
 DIPLOMATS HAD PREDICTED THE OFFENSIVE, HINTING AT "A BIG
 SURPRISE" IN STORE FOR THE MUJAHIDIN. RA SOURCES
 PRIVATELY CLAIM THAT THE OFFENSIVE IN FACT BEGAN ON
 DECEMBER 15. VARIOUS SOURCES HAVE REPORTED INTENSE
 FIGHTING IN THE AREA FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. RA SOURCES ALSO
 CLAIM THAT THREE REGIME DIVISIONS AND TWO SOVIET
 DIVISIONS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED TO THE AREA. THE SAME
 SOURCES CLAIM THAT SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES ARE PITTED
 AGAINST 18,000 MUJAHIDIN. (THIS IS TWICE THE FIGURE THE
 SOVIETS HAVE CLAIMED PUBLICLY AND APPEARS HIGH.) RA
 SOURCES CLAIM FURTHER THAT DURING THE WEEK, MANY
 CASUALTIES FROM THE FIGHTING HAVE ARRIVED IN KABUL.
 DESPITE CONFLICTING CLAIMS, THERE HAS BEEN NO RECENT
 STEP-UP OF SOVIET OR RA DEPLOYMENTS OBSERVED DEPARTING
 FROM KABUL THIS WEEK, ALTHOUGH THE FLOW OF AMMUNITION,
 FUEL AND OTHER SUPPLIES CONTINUES SOUTH ON THE LOGAR
 ROAD. SOVIET SUKHOI-25 JETS, NOW BASED IN KABUL
 (REPORTEDLY BECAUSE THE BASING IMPROVES THEIR RANGE FOR
 OPERATIONS IN PAKTIA) WERE ONLY MODERATELY ACTIVE DURING
 THE WEEK. THE REGIME, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN EXPANDING
 EFFORTS OF LATE TO DRAGOON KABUL YOUTH INTO THE MILITARY
 (SEE HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS, PARA 9), PRESUMABLY TO
 AUGMENT REGIME RANKS FOR KHOST AND OTHER FIGHTING.
 (REFTEL REPORTED DRAGOONING OF MEN RELEASED FROM PRISON
 DIRECTLY INTO UNITS BOUND FOR THE FIGHTING IN PAKTIA,
 AMONG OTHER COMBAT AREAS.) A RELIABLE REPORT CLAIMS THAT
 THE SITUATION IN KHOST HAS WORSENEDED, WITH RESUPPLY TO THE
 CITY EVEN AT NIGHT NOW EITHER REDUCED OR SUSPENDED. ON
 DECEMBER 16, ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE, A
 SOVIET CONVOY ATTEMPTING TO ADVANCE TOWARD KHOST FROM
 GARDEZ RAN INTO A MUJAHIDIN TRAP. MUJAHIDIN USED
 UNEXPLODED ROCKETS AS MINES DESTROYING TANKS AND OTHER
 ARMORED VEHICLES IN THE SATE KANDAW AREA. ON DECEMBER
 14, ACCORDING TO A SEPARATE RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE,
 TWO SOVIET HELICOPTERS PROVIDING AIR COVER FOR SOVIET/RA

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FORCES WERE DOWNED BY MUJAHIDIN NEAR KHOST.
RESIDENTS ALSO COMPLAIN THAT THE REGIME HAS GROWN
INCREASINGLY SUSPICIOUS OF BUSINESSMEN BECAUSE OF THEIR
CONTACT WITH FIRMS ABROAD. REPORTEDLY, MANY KANDAHARI
BUSINESSMEN ARE "FED UP" AND ARE MOVING OUT OF THE CITY
TO KABUL. THE CITY'S OFFICIAL CURFEW IS 2100 TO 0400.
ALTHOUGH RESIDENTS, INFORMALLY, OBSERVE A MUCH EARLIER
CURFEW. SOURCES CLAIM THE KANDAHAR HOSPITALS ARE
"FULL". SOME OF THE KABUL YOUTH BROUGHT TO KANDAHAR,
ALLEGEDLY TO ASSIST IN CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. ACCORDING
TO ONE SOURCE ARE BEING USED IN LOCAL INDUSTRIES,
INCLUDING A COTTON FACTORY. IN A SEPARATE REPORT FROM A
RELIABLE SOURCE, IN EARLY DECEMBER, TWO SOVIET UNITS
DEPARTED POSITIONS NEAR THE ROAD IN THE SPIN BULDAK AREA,
EACH WITH ABOUT 50 VEHICLES.

7. (U) PARWAN: ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 18,
MUJAHIDIN OVERRAN AN RA BASE NEAR CHARKHAR. A SOVIET
CONVOY MOVING NORTH NEAR CHARIKAR ON DECEMBER 11 HAD TO
RETURN TO KABUL BECAUSE OF A MUJAHIDIN AMBUSH.

8. (U) FARYAB: DESPITE HAVING BEEN DECLARED A "PEACE
PROVINCE" BY THE REGIME, COMBAT CONTINUES HEAVY IN
FARYAB. KABUL SOURCES APPEAR TO CONFIRM WESTERN PRESS

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UNITS: APT ASOTBU CIO CQCOM DRMO HCOBG HOCMDT INSCOM ISC JFK LAO REP

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RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC//XO-CTC//

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RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SR

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RHFQAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

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REVIEWED BY John Kelley DATE 4/28/89

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 05 OF 09 KARUL 02348

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLANDS; PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAR. MR. MRINO; THE HAGUE
FOR A-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 14/DEC/93

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,

ASEC, UP, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (DECEMBER 14-20,

ACCOUNTS OF A MAJOR MUJAHIDIN ATTACK ON MAIMANA. A
DIPLOMATIC SOURCE REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED RA
POSTS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, WHILE A SEPARATE
DIPLOMATIC ACCOUNT CLAIMS MUJAHIDIN, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP
OF JAMIAT COMMANDER YAR MOHAMMED, ATTACKED A REGIME POST
KILLING 14 AND WOUNDING 52 REGIME DEFENDERS. IN OTHER
FIGHTING REPORTED IN THE PROVINCE, AT SHIRIN TAGAR
(36°49'N 65°01'E) MUJAHIDIN DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF
DECEMBER, ATTACKED A SOVIET POST DESTROYING ONE
HELICOPTER AND FIVE TO SIX ARMORED VEHICLES. SOVIET
CASUALTIES, REPORTEDLY, WERE HEAVY.
RESIDENTS ALSO COMPLAIN THAT THE REGIME HAS GROWN
INCREASINGLY SUSPICIOUS OF BUSINESSMEN BECAUSE OF THEIR
CONTACT WITH FIRMS ABROAD. REPORTEDLY, MANY KANDAHARI
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PROVINCE" BY THE REGIME, COMBAT CONTINUES HEAVY IN
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9. (U) GHAZNI: ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED REGIME AND SOVIET FORCES WHO WERE CONDUCTING A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCH FOR MUJAHIDIN WEAPONS AND SUPPORTERS AT TOURGAN, DECEMBER 16. IN THE DAY-LONG FIGHTING, 25 SOVIET AND REGIME TROOPS WERE KILLED. MUJAHIDIN LOST THREE KILLED AND FOUR WOUNDED. AN AFGHAN REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A REGIME POST AT U-NUT, FIVE KMS FROM GHAZNI CITY. IN THE ROCKET ATTACK, ONE ARMORED VEHICLE AND ONE HEAVY GUN WERE DESTROYED. SIX REGIME TROOPS DIED IN THE ATTACK.

1C. (U) BAGHLAN: AN AFGHAN WITH FAMILY IN BAGHLAN CONFIRMS EARLIER REPORTS OF EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION IN AND AROUND BAGHLAN CITY AS A RESULT OF INTENSE SOVIET AIR AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT EARLIER IN THE FALL. OUTSIDE OF THE CITY, THE NORMALLY RICH RICE-PRODUCING AREA HAS BEEN DEVASTATED WITH FIELDS BOMBED, MINED AND LARGELY
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MEDDAC RG ROTC SAO SFOD SOCLANT SOCOM SSO SWS 1AMP 17MI 1RAVN 1RCA FLE ----
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RUCIAEA/FTD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SIIR//
RULWIOC/HQ SAC OFFUTT AFB NE//IN00//
RUECRIA/CDR513THMIGP FT MCNMOUTH NJ//IAM-IC-E//
RHCGSRB/COMUSARCENT FT MCPHERSON GA//AFRO-DSO//
RHHMRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
RUCLAKA/CDR8THPSYOPBN FT BRAGG NC
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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7723
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 4382
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 6196
INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE
RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1517
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 2036
RUEHJCS/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SR
RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUFGAAA/CINCSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
RHFGAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE
RHFGAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
RUOGHA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//
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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLANDS; PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAP, MR. HRUNO; THE HAGUE
FOR A-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 14/DEC/93
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF
ASEC, UR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (DECEMBER 14-20).

DESTROYED BY SOVIET TANK MOVEMENT. THE LARGE-SCALE
DEPOPULATION OF BAGHLAN DURING THE EARLIER SOVIET ATTACKS
ON THE CITY PRECLUDES RESTORATION OF THE FIELDS IN THE
NEAR FUTURE.

11. (U) WARDAK: A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS A
200-MAN MUJAHIDIN FORCE ATTACKED A MAJOR REGIME POSITION
IN THE MAIDAN SHAHR AREA DECEMBER 1, INFLECTING 15 REGIME
DEAD (INCLUDING THREE OFFICERS) AND CAPTURING OVER 50
SMALL ARMS.

12. (U) JAUZJAN: A RECENT TRAVELLER FROM SHEBERGAN
REPORTS THE SECURITY SITUATION TO BE STABLE UP TO SIX KMS
FROM THE CITY. BEYOND THAT, CONTROL IS CONTESTED.

13. (U) KONAR: A LARGE RA COLUMN RETURNED TO THE KARUL
AREA DECEMBER 15 AFTER COMPLETING OPERATIONS IN THE ASMAR
AREA.

14. (U) HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS: PRESSURE TO EXPAND
THE REGIME'S STANDING ARMED FORCES TO MEET THE CHALLENGE
OF MUJAHIDIN MILITARY INITIATIVES IN PAKTIA, KANDAHAR,
KABUL AND ELSEWHERE APPEARS TO HAVE PROMPTED THE REGIME
TO EXPAND ITS PRESS-GANG OPERATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN
KABUL. FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE IMPRESSMENT OF MANY PRISONERS
DIRECTLY FROM PRISON (REFTEL), THE REGIME APPEARS NOW TO
BE TARGETING UNDER-AGE BOYS AND YOUNG MEN PREVIOUSLY
PROTECTED BY TEMPORARY DEFERMENT. VETERINARY STUDENTS AT
KABUL UNIVERSITY REPORTEDLY DEMONSTRATED, DECEMBER 15,
AGAINST THE REGIME'S DRAFTING OF STUDENTS OUT OF THE
CLASSROOM. ON DECEMBER 14, A DIPLOMAT WITNESSED WHAT
APPEARED TO BE A DEMONSTRATION BY HIGH-SCHOOL AGE
STUDENTS AGAINST THE RECENT INDUCTION OF UNDER-AGE YOUNG
MEN. THE 100-150 YOUNG PEOPLE WERE FORCED ONTO TWO
MILITARY BUSES BY ARMED GUARDS IN WAZIR AKBAR KHAN.
VARIOUS AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT REGIME OFFICIALS
INCREASINGLY ARE ALTERING ID CARDS OF 15-17
YEAR-OLD-YOUTHS TO MAKE THEM ELIGIBLE FOR MILITARY
SERVICE.

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15. (U) HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS: THE WAR HAS RESULTED IN A DETERIORATION OF HEALTH IN THE COUNTRY. MALARIA IS RESURGENT. CHIEFLY BECAUSE OF A LACK OF ANTI-MOSQUITO SPRAYING AND BECAUSE OF THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES. (INFECTED PEOPLE MOVE INTO AREAS WHERE THE INFECTION RATE IS LOW BUT WHERE CARRIER MOSQUITOS ARE PRESENT. MOSQUITOS CARRY THE DISEASE FROM THE REFUGEES TO UNINFECTED HOSTS.) DESTRUCTION/DETERIORATION OF WATER SYSTEMS HAS LED PEOPLE TO RELY MORE ON POLLUTED WATER SOURCES, GREATLY INCREASING THE INCIDENCE OF DISEASES SUCH AS TYPHOID. A SOURCE ATTACHED TO A MEDICAL FACILITY IN KABUL NOTED THAT IN LATE SUMMER, KABUL EXPERIENCED A MINOR HEPATITIS EPIDEMIC. CROWDED LIVING CONDITIONS IN CITIES SUCH AS KABUL HAS INCREASED THE INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AS INFECTED REFUGEES MOVE INTO THE HOMES OF URBAN RELATIVES. DISEASES PREVIOUSLY SEEN PRIMARILY IN RURAL AREAS ARE APPEARING NOW IN URBAN SETTINGS.

16. (U) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

A. POLITICAL PARTY IN NAME ONLY: AN EASTERN BLOC SENIOR DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED "ISLAMIC" BT
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MEDDAC RG ROTC SAO SFOD SOCLANT SOCOM SSD SWS 16MP 17MI 18AVN 18CA
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RUEORDF/DIAFMIC FT DETRICK MD//IS//

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RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 2037

RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC

RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SR

RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

RUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AR GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AR GE//INCO

RUDOGHA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

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RUEOLEA/DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 07 OF 09 KARUL 02348

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR
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FOR A-DAM

E.O. 12354: DECL: 14/DEC/93
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,
ASEC, UR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (DECEMBER 14-20)

PARTY. ONE OF SEVERAL PARTIES FORMED BY THE REGIME TO
COOPERATE IN THE CREATION OF A "COALITION," HAS A
MEMBERSHIP OF ONLY 31 (COMPARED TO THE PDPA WHICH CLAIMS
A MEMBERSHIP OF 180,000).

B. SALE OF PASSPORTS: AN INCREASING NUMBER OF PASSPORTS
ARE BEING SOLD IN KABUL. WHILE THE NUMBER OF PASSPORTS
BEING SOLD REPORTEDLY EXCEEDS THE NUMBER SOLD A YEAR AGO,
THE PRICES REMAIN APPROXIMATELY THE SAME, WITH A MINIMUM
PRICE OF 50,000 AFGHANIS FOR ONE (ROUGHLY 265 U.S.
DOLLARS). CHILDREN UNDER TEN USUALLY PAY A NOMINAL
ADDITIONAL FEE. SOME INDIVIDUALS WITH "DIFFICULT" CASES
PAY CONSIDERABLY MORE. THE BRIBERY PAYMENT IS MADE TO
THE MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY WHICH MUST VET ALL
PASSPORT APPLICATIONS. THOSE SEEKING PASSPORTS TEND TO
BE LARGELY BUSINESSMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES, MOST OF WHOM
GO TO INDIA, AT LEAST INITIALLY.

C. BORDER MEETINGS: THE AMANI HIGH SCHOOL (FORMER
GERMAN TECHNICAL SCHOOL) IN WAZIR AKBAR KHAN HAS BEEN THE
SITE OF MEETINGS THROUGH MOST OF THE WEEK. THOSE
ATTENDING THE GATHERINGS REPORTEDLY ARE MULLAHS AND
TRIBAL FIGURES FROM THE AFGHAN-PAK BORDER AREA, MANY OF
WHOM BROUGHT THEIR OWN BODYGUARDS WHO JOINED REGIME
SECURITY FORCES AROUND THE COMPOUND. ONE REPORT
SUGGESTED THAT THE REGIME WAS ATTEMPTING TO CURRY FAVOR
WITH MULLAHS AND TRIBAL LEADERS IN ADVANCE OF SERIOUS NEW
FIGHTING IN PAKTIA AND ELSEWHERE NEAR THE BORDER. (SEE
PARA 3 FOR REPORTS OF SHOOTING IN THE AREA AT VARIOUS
POINTS DURING THE GATHERING).

17. (U) MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

A. THE SIEGE AT KHOST: SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN RA
OFFENSIVE TO LIFT THE MUJAHIDIN SIEGE OF KHOST APPEARS TO
SET A PUBLIC TEST FOR THE RA FORCES. IN TRUTH, THE
STRUGGLE TO LIFT THE SIEGE HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR WEEKS,
LED BY SOVIET FORCES, INCLUDING SPETZNAZ UNITS. IF
REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANT MUJAHIDIN REINFORCEMENTS OF THE

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KHOST AREA ARE EVEN PARTIALLY CORRECT. IT APPEARS THAT MUJAHIDIN INTEND TO MAINTAIN THE SIEGE. THE BATTLE FOR KHOST THUS COULD TURN OUT TO BE A FAR MORE CONVENTIONAL STRUGGLE THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST. DENIAL OF SOVIET AIR SUPERIORITY BECAUSE OF MUJAHIDIN POSSESSION OF SAMs AND WORSENING WEATHER IN THE REGION, PLUS SIGNIFICANT TERRAIN ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO THE MUJAHIDIN WHO CONTROL THE HEIGHTS OVERLOOKING THE GARDEZ TO KHOST ROAD, AND KHOST ITSELF MAY PRESENT MAJOR TACTICAL PROBLEMS FOR THE LARGER SOVIET AND RA FORCES. MOREOVER, MUJAHIDIN MORALE AND IMPROVED TACTICAL COORDINATION INEVITABLY WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT IMPACT ON THE FIGHTING. WHILE THE MUJAHIDIN ARGUABLY COULD MELT AWAY IN THE FACE OF SUPERIOR SOVIET/RA NUMBERS AND FIREPOWER, AND STILL CLAIM THE MONTH-LONG SIEGE OF KHOST AS A MAJOR POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL VICTORY, IT APPEARS THE MUJAHIDIN MAY MAINTAIN THEIR SIEGE, DESPITE THE LIKELY HIGH CASUALTIES ENTAILED IN SUCH A COURSE. THE OUTCOME OF A PROTRACTED STRUGGLE FOR KHOST COULD TAKE ON A POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE THAT WOULD OUTWEIGH THE CONSIDERABLE MILITARY STAKES INVOLVED.

B. SOVIET BRASS MEET AT TERMEZ?: A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE CLAIMS THAT IN LATE NOVEMBER, SENIOR SOVIET

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INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC

RUEANAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC

RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC//XO-CTC//

RUEAMCC/CMC CC WASHINGTON DC

RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//

RUEORDF/DIRAFMIC FT DETRICK MD//IS//

RUCJAAA/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//SOJ2//

RUEASAAA/MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//INO//

RUEABOA/HQ AFOSI ROLLING AFB DC

RUDMNSC/NISC WASHINGTON DC

RUCLAKA/CDR8THPSYOP GP FT BRAGG NC//AFVS-P06-E-SSD//

RUCIAEA/FTD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SIIR//

RULWIOC/HQ SAC OFFUTT AFB NE//INOO//

RUEDBIA/CDR513THMIGP FT MONMOUTH NJ//IAM-IC-D//

RHCGRB/COMUSARCENT FT MCPHERSON GA//AFRD-DSO//

RHHMBA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI

RUCLAKA/CDR8THPSYOPBN FT BRAGG NC

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7725

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RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 6198

INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1519

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RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SR

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RUFQAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

RHFQAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

RUDOGHA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

RUEOLEA/DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLAND; PARIS ALSO FOR
USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAR, MR. BRUND; THE HAGUE
FOR A-DAM

E.O. 12354: DECL: 14/DEC/93

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF.

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (DECEMBER 14-20,

MILITARY OFFICIALS FROM AFGHANISTAN AND MOSCOW MET AT
TERMEZ TO DISCUSS THE WAR.

C. SOVIET/RA AIR LOSSES DOWN?: A RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC
SOURCE CLAIMS THAT SOVIET AND RA AIR LOSSES ARE DOWN OVER
THE LAST SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS. THE SOURCE SPECULATES THAT
REASONS FOR THE DECLINE ARE IMPROVED FLYING TECHNIQUES
AND REDUCED FLIGHTS, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS KNOWN TO
HARBOR SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE TEAMS.

18. (U) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

A. KARAKUL EXPORTS DECLINE SHARPLY: A SPOKESPERSON FOR
THE AFGHAN KARAKUL PROMOTION INSTITUTE, SPEAKING IN THE
KABUL MEDIA DECEMBER 20, ADMITTED THAT ONLY 440,000
KARAKUL PELTS WILL BE EXPORTED IN 1987, DOWN FROM 1.16
MILLION PELTS EXPORTED IN 1978 AND 800,000 PELTS IN
1986. THE SPOKESPERSON PLACED BLAME FOR THE NEARLY FIFTY
PERCENT DROP ON THE RISE IN MEAT PRICES AND THE
SLAUGHTERING OF KARAKUL SHEEP BY "EXTREMISTS." KARAKUL
TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN A KEY FOREIGN CURRENCY EARNER.
THE SHARP DECLINE IN KARAKUL EXPORTS PARALLELS THE
DECLINE OF RAISIN EXPORTS, ANOTHER PRINCIPAL FOREIGN
CURRENCY EARNER. THE FALL OF THE REGIME'S NON-BARTER
EXPORTS MAY EXPLAIN THE RAPID DECLINE OF THE AFGHANI,
WHICH FELL TO AN UNPRECEDENTED 189 PER ONE U.S. DOLLAR
THIS WEEK. ALSO DURING THE WEEK, A DIPLOMAT OBSERVED
SOVIET ADVISORS WORKING IN AREAS OF THE RA FOREIGN TRADE
BANK WHERE SOVIETS HAVE NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE.

B. LIVESTOCK HEALTH: A VETERINARY EXPERT BELIEVES THAT
INADEQUATE LIVESTOCK EXAMINATIONS AND INNOCULATION, DUE
LARGELY TO WAR CONDITIONS, HAVE RESULTED IN THE SPREAD OF
LIVESTOCK DISEASES SUCH AS RIDERPEST AND HOOF AND MOUTH
DISEASE. ACCORDING TO THE EXPERT, THESE DISEASES HAVE
BECOME A SERIOUS THREAT TO AFGHAN LIVESTOCK. SHOULD SUCH
DISEASES BECOME WIDESPREAD IN AFGHANISTAN, THEY COULD
POSE A THREAT EVEN TO LIVESTOCK IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN
EUROPE. AFGHANISTAN IS VIEWED AS A BRIDGE AREA FOR THE

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TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE FROM THE SUB-CONTINENT TO THE WEST. COMPLICATING THE PROBLEM FURTHER IS THE LARGE AMOUNT OF NOMADIC HERDING IN AFGHANISTAN.

C. FOOD CONVOY REACHES KABUL: AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT A LARGE FOOD CONVOY FROM HAIPATAN (USSR), ARRIVED IN KABUL DECEMBER 16.

19. (U) SOVIETIZATION:

A. STATE SECURITY OFFICERS RETURN FROM USSR: FIFTY MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY OFFICERS WHO HAD COMPLETED TRAINING IN THE SOVIET UNION RETURNED TO AFGHANISTAN IN LATE NOVEMBER. THIRTY WERE ASSIGNED TO KABUL, 19 TO THE PROVINCES AND ONE, WHO REPORTEDLY DISAPPEARED AFTER RETURNING TO KABUL, WAS BRANDED A TRAITOR.

B. MULLAHS TO THE SOVIET UNION: A GROUP OF 50-60 AFGHAN MULLAHS WERE FLOWN TO THE SOVIET UNION, DECEMBER 17.

20. (U) REGIME MEDIA:

A. MAIMANA ATTACK: KABUL MEDIA REPORTED, DECEMBER 14, THAT A MUJAHIDIN ATTACK ON MAIMANA, FARYAB PROVINCIAL

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RUEOFAA/COMUSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RUEORDF/DIRAFMIC FT DETRICK ME//IS//
RUCJAAA/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//SOJ2//
RUWSAAA/MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//INO//
RUEABOA/HQ AFOSI HOLLING AFB DC
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RUCIAEA/FTD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SIIR//
RULWIOC/HQ SAC OFFUTT AFB NE//INOO//
RUECHIA/CDR513THMIGP FT MCNMOUTH NJ//IAM-IC-C//
RHCGSRB/COMUSARCENT FT MCPherson GA//AFRO-DSO//
RHHFBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
RUCLAKA/CDR8THPSYOPHN FT BRAGG NC
RULWAAA/DIA REP SAC OFFUTT AFB NE
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RUFHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 1520
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 2039
RUEHJCS/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SR
RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUFQAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
RHFGAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
RHFOAAA/HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
RUDOGHA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//
RUEOLEA/DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP
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DISEASES SUCH AS MALARIA, TUBERCULOSIS, TYPHOID AND
HEPATITIS ARE ON THE RISE. IN ADDITION TO RECENTLY
REPORTED DECLINE IN THE EXPORT OF RAISINS, ANOTHER MAJOR
FOREIGN CURRENCY EARNER, KAPAKUL FELTS, HAS REGISTERED
DRASTICALLY REDUCED EXPORT LEVELS. END SUMMARY

-3. (U) KABUL CITY DEVELOPMENTS: MUJAHIDIN, WHO HAVE
BEEN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL, STAGED A
MAJOR ROCKET ATTACK ON THE CITY IN THE EARLY HOURS OF
DECEMBER 18. ROCKETS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE STRUCK THE RA
MILITARY GARRISON IN THE HISTORIC BALA HISSAR FORT; A
MILITARY RESIDENTIAL AREA IN QALA-I-NAU, IN RA POST AT
BINI HISSAR, QALA-I-CHAR AND WALA-I-ZAMAN DISTRICTS. IN
QALA-I-NAU, 20 BUILDINGS WERE REPORTEDLY DESTROYED, WITH
A FATALITY COUNT OF 20. AT BALA HISSAR, 11 TROOPS
REPORTEDLY WERE KILLED. A RELIABLE REPORT CLAIMS THAT AN
RA GENERAL'S HOUSE ALSO WAS HIT IN QALA-I-NAU. THE
BOMBARDMENT, WHICH LASTED APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES
(0155-0215) PROMPTED OUTGOING ARTILLERY FIRE.

APPROXIMATELY TWELVE HOURS EARLIER (1030-1100, DECEMBER
17), A PROTRACTED EXCHANGE OF HEAVY WEAPONS FIRE WAS
HEARD IN ABOUT THE SAME AREA. IN THE AFTERNOON, DECEMBER
20, A BOMB BLAST IN A COMMERCIAL AREA IN SHARE NAU
REPORTEDLY KILLED SIX. SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER, ANOTHER
BOMB WAS FOUND IN THE SAME AREA AND WAS DEFUSED. SMALL
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FOR A-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL: 14/DEC/93

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PFUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,
ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT (DECEMBER 14-20,

CENTER, KILLED 10 AND WOUNDED 34 OTHERS. (SEE PARA A)

B. HERAT BOMB INCIDENT: KABUL MEDIA REPORTED DECEMBER
20 THAT A BOMB IN THE SHAR-I-NAU DISTRICT OF HERAT AT
1430, DECEMBER 17, KILLED ONE PERSON AND INJURED EIGHT.

C. DARI PRESS CRITICAL OF REGIME PROJECTS:
HAQIQAT-E-INQILAB-E-SAUR, A DARI LANGUAGE DAILY, RECENTLY
HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF REGIME ORGANIZATIONS AND PROJECTS.
AMONG RECENT TARGETS HAVE BEEN THE STATE MONOPOLY THAT
DISTRIBUTES KEROSENE AND OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS; THE
REGIME ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR MALARIA ERADICATION;
STORES SELLING PRODUCE FROM AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES;
SPECIAL STORES FOR THE REGIME'S MILITARY AND THEIR
FAMILIES; THE KABUL CITY COUNCIL AND THE WATAN CHILDREN'S
NURSERY. THE LAST FACILITY, FORMERLY UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF THE WIFE OF OUSTED PARTY AND STATE LEADER BAHRAK
KARMAL, IS ONE OF THE SHOWPIECES ON THE STANDARD TOUR
LAID ON BY THE REGIME FOR VISITING VIP'S AND
JOURNALISTS. THE ARTICLE ON THE NURSERY REVEALED THAT
THE CHILDREN WERE POORLY CLOTHED, THE CAFETERIA HAD NO
WINDOWS, THE KITCHEN WAS UNSANITARY, THE CHILDREN HAVE
FEW ACTIVITIES AND ARE OFTEN WITHOUT SUPERVISION, AND
MANY CHILDREN OF OFFICIALS ARE CARED FOR AT THE
INSTITUTION EVEN THOUGH IT IS INTENDED TO ADDRESS THE
NEEDS OF ORPHANS. IN AN INTERVIEW, THE ADMINISTRATOR
ADMITTED PROBLEMS BUT BLAMED THEM ON PREVIOUS
ADMINISTRATIONS AND "RECENT DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS." THE CRITICISMS HAVE NOT BEEN REPEATED IN THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE MEDIA OR IN KABUL BROADCAST MEDIA.

21. (U) MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. GLASSMAN

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